United Nations A/RES/57/280

General Assembly

Distr.: General
24 January 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 111

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/648)*]

57/280. Proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004–2005

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolution 41/213 of 19 December 1986, in which it requested the Secretary-General to submit in off-budget years an outline of the proposed programme budget for the following biennium,

Reaffirming also section VI of its resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990,

Reaffirming further rule 153 of its rules of procedure,

Recalling its resolutions 56/253 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/287 of 27 June 2002 and 57/292 of 20 December 2002,

Having considered the report of the Secretary-General on the proposed programme budget outline for the biennium 2004–2005,[1] the related recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[2] and the recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. *Endorses* the relevant conclusions and recommendations contained in the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[2] and the observations and recommendations of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* that the proposed programme budget outline shall contain an indication of the following:

(*a*) A preliminary estimate of resources needed to accommodate the proposed programme of activities during the biennium;

(*b*) Priorities reflecting general trends of a broad sectoral nature;

(*c*) Real growth, positive or negative, compared with the previous budget;

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[1] A/57/85.

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), paras. 25 and 26.

[3] See A/57/636.

(*d*) Size of the contingency fund expressed as a percentage of the overall level of resources;

3. *Also reaffirms* that the budget outline should provide a greater level of predictability of resources required for the following biennium and promote greater involvement of Member States in the budgetary process, thereby facilitating the broadest possible agreement on the programme budget;

4. *Further reaffirms* that the budget proposals of the Secretary-General should reflect resource levels commensurate with mandates for their full, efficient and effective implementation;

5. *Reiterates its request* to the Secretary-General to submit, in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005, the total amount of resources that he should have at his disposal, from all sources of financing, in order to implement fully all mandated programmes and activities;

6. *Notes* that the budget outline is a preliminary estimate of resources;

7. *Requests* the Secretary-General to continue to include in the proposed budget outlines and in the proposed programme budget provisions for expenditures for special political missions related to peace and security expected to be extended or approved in the course of the biennium;

8. *Also requests* the Secretary-General to make appropriate provisions in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 to minimize adverse impacts on the provision of adequate conference services and other related services, in accordance with its resolutions 56/254 D and 56/287, drawing, inter alia, on the improvements made in the management of conference services;

9. *Invites* the Secretary-General to prepare his proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 on the basis of a preliminary estimate of 2,876 million United States dollars at revised 2002–2003 rates;

10. *Requests* the Secretary-General to resubmit the proposed information technology strategy in accordance with resolution 56/239 of 24 December 2001 during the resumed fifty-seventh session of the General Assembly;

11. *Decides* to consider in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005, in addition to the preliminary estimate, a provision in the amount of 29.8 million dollars for information technology and common services facility infrastructure, bearing in mind the comments of the Secretary-General in paragraph 5 of his report;[1]

12. *Decides also* that the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 shall contain provisions for recosting on the basis of the existing methodology;

13. *Decides further* that the priorities for the biennium 2004–2005 shall be the following:

(*a*) Maintenance of international peace and security;

(*b*) Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development, in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences;

(*c*) Development of Africa;

(*d*) Promotion of human rights;

(*e*) Effective coordination of humanitarian assistance efforts;

(*f*) Promotion of justice and international law;

(*g*) Disarmament;

(*h*) Drug control, crime prevention and combating international terrorism in all its forms and manifestations;

14. *Requests* the Secretary-General, in view of his preliminary indicative estimates contained in the proposed budget outline, to reflect the priorities outlined in paragraph 13 above when presenting the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005;

15. *Decides* that the contingency fund shall be set at the level of 0.75 per cent of the preliminary estimate, namely at 21.6 million dollars, that this amount shall be in addition to the overall level of the preliminary estimate and that it shall be used in accordance with the procedures for the use and operation of the contingency fund.

78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002

United Nations A/RES/57/281

General Assembly

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Fifty-seventh session
Agenda items 111 and 118

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/603)*]

57/281. Gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its resolutions 51/243 of 15 September 1997, 52/234 of 26 June 1998, 53/11 of 26 October 1998 and 53/218 of 7 April 1999 and its decision 55/462 of 12 April 2001,

Having considered the annual report of the Secretary-General on gratis personnel provided by Governments and other entities, covering the period from 1 January to 31 December 2001,[1] and the related report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[2]

Takes note of the annual report of the Secretary-General.[1]

78th plenary meeting
20 December 2002

[1] A/56/839.

[2] See *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-sixth Session, Supplement No. 7A* (A/56/7/Add.1–11), annex.

General Assembly

Distr.: General
29 January 2003

Fifty-seventh session
Agenda item 113

Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/650)*]

57/282. Programme planning

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions 37/234 of 21 December 1982, 38/227 A of 20 December 1983, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 55/234 of 23 December 2000 and 56/253 of 24 December 2001,

Having examined the proposed revisions submitted by the Secretary-General[1] concerning the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005,[2]

Having considered the report of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on the work of its forty-second session,[3]

Having also considered the note by the Secretary-General on the proposed revisions to programme 1, Political affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005,[4] the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000–2001,[5] the report of the Office of Internal Oversight Services on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives[6] and the note by the Secretariat[7] on a new subprogramme on financing for development and revisions to relevant subprogrammes under programme 7, Economic and social affairs, of the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005,

Having further considered the letter dated 15 October 2002 from the Chairman of the Sixth Committee addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee[8] and the letter dated 31 October 2002 from the President of the General Assembly addressed to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee,[9]

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[1] A/57/6 (Prog.1 and Corr.1, Prog.2, 3, 5, 7–19 and 24–26).

[2] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-fifth Session, Supplement No. 6* (A/55/6/Rev.1).

[3] Ibid., *Fifty-seventh session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16).

[4] A/C.5/57/12.

[5] A/57/62.

[6] See A/57/68.

[7] A/C.5/57/19.

[8] A/C.5/57/17.

[9] A/C.5/57/20.

1. *Notes with appreciation* the work of the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-second session;[3]

2. *Reaffirms* the role of the Committee as the main subsidiary organ of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council for planning, programming and coordination;

3. *Requests* the Committee to continue to observe its methods of governing the drafting and format of its reports;

4. *Encourages* the Committee to continue its discussions on improving its working methods and procedures within the framework of its mandate, with a view to further enhancing its effectiveness and continued relevance;

I

Revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005

1. *Reaffirms* that the medium-term plan is the principal policy directive of the United Nations and that it shall serve as the framework for the next biennial programme budget;

2. *Reaffirms* regulations 4.2, 4.13 and 5.2 of the Regulations and Rules Governing Programme Planning, the Programme Aspects of the Budget, the Monitoring of Implementation and the Methods of Evaluation,[10] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure full compliance with them;

3. *Adopts* the proposed revisions to the medium-term plan for the period 2002–2005 submitted by the Secretary-General,[1] as amended by the relevant recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination,[3] and the recommendations of the Economic and Social Council contained in its resolution 2002/39 of 25 October 2002;

4. *Notes* the recommendations of the Committee[11] that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 7 of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the review by the Assembly at its fifty-seventh session of the outcome of the International Conference on Financing for Development, held in Monterrey, Mexico, from 18 to 22 March 2002,[12] and the World Summit on Sustainable Development, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, from 26 August to 4 September 2002,[13] and requests the Secretary-General to submit those proposals through the Committee at its forty-third session for consideration by the General Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

5. *Also notes* the recommendation of the Committee[14] that the Secretary-General submit proposals for revisions to programme 8, Africa: New Agenda for Development, of the medium-term plan so as to reflect the final review and appraisal by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session of the implementation of the United Nations New

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[10] ST/SGB/2000/8.

[11] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), paras. 107and108.

[12] *Report of the International Conference on Financing for Development, Monterrey, Mexico, 18–22 March 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.02.II.A.7), chap. I, resolution 1, annex.

[13] *Report of the World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg, South Africa, 26 August–4 September 2002* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.03.II.A.1 and corrigendum), chap. I, resolutions 1 and 2.

[14] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), para. 117.

Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s and any other relevant legislative mandates, and requests the Secretary-General to submit those revisions through the Committee at its forty-third session for consideration by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session;

6. *Requests* the Secretary-General, bearing in mind that the lack of time precludes further revisions to the medium-term plan at the fifty-seventh session, to prepare the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2004–2005 for programmes 7 and 8 of the medium-term plan in line with the recommendations of the Committee at its forty-second session and other relevant legislative mandates;

II

Programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000–2001

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General on the programme performance of the United Nations for the biennium 2000–2001;[5]

2. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[15] regarding the report of the Secretary-General;

III

Evaluation

1. *Stresses* the importance and necessity of further improving evaluation and integrating it into the cycle of programme planning, budgeting and monitoring with a view to improving and strengthening programme formulation and implementation;

2. *Approves* the following schedule of in-depth evaluations to be submitted to the Committee for Programme and Coordination at its forty-third, forty-fourth and forty-fifth sessions respectively: (*a*) law of the sea and ocean affairs; (*b*) public administration, finance and development; and (*c*) human settlements;

3. *Emphasizes* the importance of the contribution of the relevant intergovernmental bodies, in particular the Main Committees of the General Assembly, in reviewing relevant recommendations on evaluation;

4. *Reiterates* its view that the relevant intergovernmental bodies, as well as the Economic and Social Council and the Main Committees of the General Assembly should include in their programmes of work a review of recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination relevant to their work and take appropriate action;

5. *Regrets* that the relevant intergovernmental bodies did not review the recommendations on evaluation of the Committee;

6. *Urges* those intergovernmental bodies effectively to review the relevant recommendations on evaluation to facilitate their consideration by the Fifth Committee;

7. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination on strengthening the role of evaluation findings in programme design, delivery and policy directives,[16] on the in-depth evaluation of the subprogrammes on General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and

[15] Ibid., paras. 56–61.

[16] Ibid., paras. 253–259.

Council support and coordination,[17] on the in-depth evaluation of legal affairs,[18] on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the disarmament programme[19] and on the triennial review of the implementation of the recommendations made by the Committee at its thirty-ninth session on the in-depth evaluation of the electoral assistance programme;[20]

IV

Report of the Joint Inspection Unit

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[21] regarding the report of the Joint Inspection Unit entitled "Strengthening the investigations functions in United Nations system organizations";[22]

2. *Notes* the recommendation of the Unit that executive heads of organizations should ensure that managers involved in investigations have sufficient training in the use of established standards and procedures for conducting investigations,[23] and requests the Secretary-General to ensure that United Nations programme managers implicated in incidents, crimes or irregularities leading to investigations are not involved, in any way, in conducting those investigations;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to review the practice of involving United Nations programme managers in investigative processes so as to ensure their independence in administrative and managerial functions and to establish proper guidelines that take into consideration the practice of internal control, and to report thereon to the General Assembly no later than at its fifty-eighth session;

V

Other conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination

1. *Endorses* the conclusions and recommendations of the Committee for Programme and Coordination[24] regarding the annual overview report of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination for 2001,[25] and its conclusions and recommendations[26] regarding the report of the Secretary-General on the United Nations System-wide Special Initiative on Africa in the context of the final evaluation of the United Nations New Agenda for the Development of Africa in the 1990s;[27]

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[17] Ibid., paras. 271–274.

[18] Ibid., paras. 289 and 290.

[19] Ibid., paras. 297 and 298.

[20] Ibid., paras. 305 and 306.

[21] Ibid., paras. 356 and 357.

[22] See A/56/282.

[23] Ibid., recommendation 2.

[24] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), paras. 316–323.

[25] E/2002/55.

[26] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 16* (A/57/16), paras. 334–338.

[27] E/AC.51/2002/8.

2. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the Committee at its forty-third session on the future engagement of the United Nations system with the New Partnership for Africa's Development;

3. *Stresses* that inter-agency coordination in the field of management should be further strengthened, and recommends that progress made in that regard be reflected in future reports of the United Nations System Chief Executives Board for Coordination.

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20 December 2002

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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly

[*on the report of the Fifth Committee (A/57/651)*]

57/283. Pattern of conferences

The General Assembly,

Reaffirming its relevant resolutions, including resolutions 40/243 of 18 December 1985, 41/213 of 19 December 1986, 43/222 A to E of 21 December 1988, 52/214 of 22 December 1997, 54/248 of 23 December 1999, 55/222 of 23 December 2000, 56/242 of 24 December 2001, 56/254 D of 27 March 2002, 56/262 of 15 February 2002 and 56/287 of 27 June 2002,

Having considered the report of the Committee on Conferences[1] and the relevant reports of the Secretary-General,[2]

Having also considered the report of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions,[3]

1. *Approves* the draft revised calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2003, as contained in the annex to the report of the Committee on Conferences;[1]

2. *Authorizes* the Committee on Conferences to make any adjustments to the calendar of conferences and meetings for 2003 that may become necessary as a result of actions and decisions taken by the General Assembly at its fifty-seventh session;

3. *Requests* the Secretary-General to ensure that any modification to the calendar of conferences and meetings would be implemented strictly in accordance with the mandate of the Committee on Conferences and other relevant resolutions of the General Assembly;

4. *Decides* to continue consideration of the item, as a matter of priority, during the first part of its resumed fifty-seventh session;

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[1] *Official Records of the General Assembly, Fifty-seventh Session, Supplement No. 32* and corrigendum (A/57/32 and Corr.1).

[2] A/56/901, A/57/228 and Add.1 and 2, A/57/289 and A/C.5/56/37.

[3] A/57/472.

5. *Decides also* to resume consideration of the reports of the Secretary-General on the pattern of conferences[4] and on improving the performance of the Department of General Assembly Affairs and Conference Services[5] in order to take action on them.

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[4] A/57/228 and Add.1 and 2.
[5] A/57/289.